cruitment procedures. It has not been possible to regularise any of the leigible daily wage workers in the Coast Guard Headquarters due to the non-availability of vacancies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Vehicles Developed by Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur

3855. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur has developed its own prototypes in 0.5 Ton and 2.5 Ton class which meet the G.S.Q.R. of new generation vehicles required by the Army; and

(b) whether these prototypes have fared well?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur has offered prototype vehicle in 0.5 Ton and 2.5 Ton category against the G.S.Q.R. of new generation vehicles required by the Army. The performance of these vehicles will be known after completion of the User-trials which are in progress.

Election to Cantonment Boards

3856. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the election to 62 Cantonment Boards were held on 2nd February, 1992;

(b) whether any complaint from the public of Danapur Cantonment was submitted to the President, Danapur Cantonment on 22nd January, 1992 and 29th January, 1992 regarding alleged threats to the voters and Candidates of the Ward No. 5 of Danapur Cantonment, with fire arms;

(c) whether it is also a fact that on 2nd February, 1992 (election day) the voters were chared at pistol point and a number of bombs were exploded in ward No. 5; and

(d) if so, the steps taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Election to 56 Cantonment Boards were held on 2-2-1992.

(b) Two complaints, dated 22-1-92 and 29-1-92 were received from one Shri Ram Naresh Prasad, a resident of Saguna, Danapur Municipality addressed to the President, Cantonment Board, Danapur, *inter alia* containing alleged threats to voters and candidates by Shri Manoj Kumar a contesting candidate from Ward No. 5 Danapur Cantt and his supporters. CEO Danapur, took up the matter with the SDO, Danapur, and also with the complainant and advised all concerned to maintain peace.

(c) and (d) No such report has been received from the President, Cantonment Board. The election to Cantonment Board, Danapur, was held smoothly.

Weeding out of Naval Vessels

3857. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of of the naval vessels presently in service are in the process of being weeded out;

(b) if so, what is the number of naval frigates to be weeded out within the next three to five years and the number by which the strength of the naval vessels would be reduced as a consequence thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the deficiency in the naval fleet is not likely to be met due to resources crunch;

(d) if so, what would be the gap between the weeding out and the induction of new naval vessels; and

(e) what would be its likely impact on the combat efficiency of naval force and what action Government proposes to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) The force levels of the Indian Navy are being developed in accordance with a Long Term Perspective Plan (LTPP) and the Five Year Naval Plans which take into account the geopiotical environment in the region., the maritime interests of the country, the types of operations that the Indian Navy would be called upon to perform, and the availability of funds. The Government ensure that the Indian Navy is maintained in a state of full preparedness for meeting any eventuality that may arise. Further details cannot be disclosed in the interest of national security.

Export by BEL

3858. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of decline in the BEL, export orders for Defence at the

end of December, 1991 as compared to decline in 1990;

(b) what are the reasons for failure of the efforts to promote defence exports;

(c) what is the percentage of decline in export earnings (in foreign exchange) as a result thereof; and

(d) what are the main foreign markets where defence exports are presently being made and what is the strategy if any formulated by Government to explore other foreign markets for defence exports during 1992?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The defence export orders received by Bharat Electronics Ltd. in the calendar year 1990 were higher than in the previous year. In 1991 these were lower by 77% than the figures for 1990.

(b) *and* (c) The cumulative export by the defence production units has not declined but has been on the increase over the last three years. Receipt of orders by individual defence production agencies in a particular year is dependent on the fluctuation in demand for different items changes in competitive scenario, financial allocation for defence procurement in targetted countries as well as our own strategic perceptions about sale to particular countries.

(d) It will not be in public interest to divulge the names of countries to which defence exports are undertaken. In order to give a thrust to defence exports the Government have simplified the policy and procedures for exports to be undertaken by the defence PSUs and Ordnance Factory Board. These agencies al sloutl ise the marketing infrastructure av ai able with recognised export houses and our missions abroad. Other strategies employed by them include maximisation of buybacks, sub-contract work and participation in international trade fairs and exchange of relevant trade visits.

मिली-जुली बटालियनों का बनाया जाना

3859. **श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग :** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या जाति और क्षेत्र के आधार पर गठित थल सेना की पैदल रेजिमेंटों की विभिन्न बटालियनों को मिली-जुली बटालियनों में बदलने संबंधी कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री शरद पवार) : (क) और (ख) सेना की इंफैन्ट्री बटालियनों में वर्ग आधार को धीरे-धीरे विस्तृत किया जा रहा है ।

थल सेना को युद्ध संबंधी मुस्तैदी

3860. **श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग :** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पाकिस्तान द्वारा हाल में परमाणु शस्त्र विकसित कर लिए जाने से उत्पन्न धमकी को ध्यान में रखते हुए परमाणु/जैव रासायनिक युद्ध भड़क उठने की स्थिति में अपनी सशस्त्र सेनाओं की सुरक्षा करने तथा उन्हें मुकाबले के लिए तत्पर रखने के लिए पर्याप्त सुरक्षा उपाय कर लिए गए हैं; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में क्या-क्या कमियां तथा बाधाऐं हैं ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री शरद पवार) : (क) और (ख) सरकार उन सभी गतिविधियों पर निरंतर निगरानी रखती है जिनका हमारी सुरक्षा पर प्रभाव पड़ता है और उसकी रक्षा के लिए समुचित उपाय करती है ।

Supply of Purchases of DMS/Ankle Boots to Armed Forces

3861. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of purchases of DMS and Ankle Boots made by headquarters/ other level authorities of each of the three Armed Forces for the supply to Armed Forces personne ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have received complaints of defective supplies being taken from time to time;

(c) whether it is also a fact that public sector industries which are manufacturing such boots are generally neglected or full supplies of the items are not taken from them for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?